

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/491,286

Examiner

Jason M. Borlinghaus

Applicant(s)

DAVIS ET AL.

Art Unit

3693

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/5/06 and 11/17/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 44-47, 49, 50 and 52-63.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Examiner's Amendment**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview and facsimile transmission with Brad Bowling on 11/17/06.

**Claims 44, 49, 50 and 53** have been amended by examiner's amendment.

**Claims 48 and 51** are cancelled by examiner's amendment.

**Claim 44.** A method of comparing hardware comprising:

accessing a first manufacturer's storefront database, wherein accessing includes logging onto the first manufacturer's storefront database from a first computer network;

requesting information about an old computer system using a first configuration request;

receiving old system configuration data for the old computer system from the first manufacturer's database, wherein the old system configuration data includes old hardware configuration data;

storing the old system configuration data as an old system configuration, wherein the old system configuration includes the old system configuration data:

Art Unit: 3693

executing configuration utility software on the old computer system;

highlighting any components of the old computer system identified by the configuration utility software as differing from the old system configuration data,

altering the old system configuration to reflect any different components identified by the configuration utility software;

accessing a second manufacturer's storefront database using a second computer network, wherein a new computer hardware catalog is stored in the second manufacturer's storefront database, and wherein accessing the

second manufacturer's storefront database includes accessing the new computer hardware catalog;

transmitting a new hardware inquiry second configuration request to the second manufacturer's storefront database, wherein the second configuration request includes a new hardware inquiry, and wherein transmitting the second configuration request includes transmitting the new hardware inquiry;

receiving new hardware system configuration data corresponding to a new computer system from the second manufacturer;

wherein the new system configuration data includes new hardware configuration data;

electronically comparing the new hardware system configuration data and the old hardware system configuration data; and

determining a compatible component list indicating at least one components of the old computer system that ~~are~~ is reusable in the new computer system;

Art Unit: 3693

determining street prices of the old computer system with and without at least one component of the old computer system that is reusable in the new computer system; and

determining prices of the new computer system with and without at least one component of the old computer system that is reusable in the new computer system.

**Claim 49.** The method of Claim 48 44, further comprising determining whether to reuse a at least one component of the old computer system in the new computer system based on the street prices values.

**Claim 50.** The method of Claim 48 44, further comprising transmitting a hardware description to an online auction site comprising the old system configuration minus at least one component to be reused in the new computer system.

**Claim 53.** A method of comparing hardware comprising:

obtaining old configuration data over a first computer network for an old computer system from a first manufacturer using a unique tag that uniquely identifies the old computer system;

obtaining new configuration data over a second computer network for a new computer system from a second manufacturer;

electronically comparing the new configuration data and the old configuration data; and

determining a compatible component list indicating at least one component of the old computer system that is reusable in the new computer system;

determining street prices of the old computer system with and without at least one component of the old computer system that is reusable in the new computer system; and

determining prices of the new computer system with and without at least one component of the old computer system that is reusable in the new computer system.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

**Claims 44 – 47, 49 – 50 and 53 - 63 are allowed.**

The following is a statement of reasons for indication of allowable subject matter.

The prior art fails to teach or suggest, the limitations of:

A method comprising “determining street prices of the old computer system with and without at least one component of the old computer system that is reusable in the new computer system; and determining prices of the new computer system with and without at least one component of the old computer system that is reusable in the new computer system.” (as in independent Claims 44, 53 and 58).

Such limitation is in all independent claims.

It is old and well known in the art to salvage components from a retired or existing computer system for reuse in other existing or prospective computer systems. However, to date, there does not exist a unified and cohesive automated methodology in which an individual can maintain, update and retrieve configuration information

concerning a computer system, such configuration information consisting of the system's component parts, and determine the street prices of said computer system with and without salvaged parts.

Rathbone (Rathbone, A. *Upgrading & Fixing PCs For Dummies: 4<sup>th</sup> Edition*. IDG Books Worldwide Inc. 1998. pp. 12 – 16, 23, 26, 58 – 62, 75 – 76, 88 – 89, 163 – 164, 184 – 185, 320 – 322 and 326) discloses a method for retaining paper records concerning components comprising a computer system, such as old boxes, manuals, receipts and hand-written notes. Rathbone also discloses a method for salvaging certain components for reuse in another computer system, such as salvaging a monitor and video card in another computer system. However, Rathbone does not teach a unified and cohesive automated methodology in which an individual can maintain, update and retrieve configuration information concerning a computer system, such configuration information consisting of the system's component parts, and determine the street prices of said computer system with and without salvaged parts. While Rathbone may have been modified to maintain formerly paper records in electronic format such as through computer system software, examiner asserts that the assessment of street prices and calculation of street prices for various reconfigurations of the computer system with and without salvage parts would not have been obvious at the time the invention was made.

Neither this prior art reference, alone nor in combination with others, discloses nor teaches the feature(s) of determining street prices of the old computer system with and without at least one component of the old computer system that is reusable in the

Art Unit: 3693

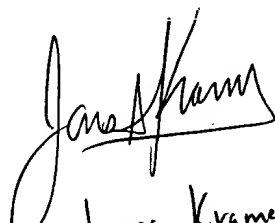
new computer system; and determining prices of the new computer system with and without at least one component of the old computer system that is reusable in the new computer system.

### **Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason M. Borlinghaus whose telephone number is (571) 272-6924. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:00pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on (571) 272-6712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

  
James Kramer  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3693

Application/Control Number: 09/491,286  
Art Unit: 3693

Page 8

\*\*\*